



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

47050 Generals Hwy.
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone
559 565-3730 fax

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release: April 3, 2012

Contact: Dana M. Dierkes

Phone Number: (559) 565-3131 (desk) or (559) 679-2866 (cell)

Plan Carefully for a Safe Spring Visit to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Three Rivers, CA – While it is springtime in the foothills or lower elevations of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, it is still winter in the mountains. Plan in advance for a safe and enjoyable visit to the parks.

The following information may be helpful:

- **Temporary Website Issues:** Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks' website (www.nps.gov/seki) cannot be updated at this time due to a nationwide system upgrade. This issue is expected to be resolved soon but, until then, the latest information on the website is dated from midday on Friday, March 30. For updated information, call the park at 559-565-3341.
- **Fee-Free Days:** Entrance is free from April 21-29 during National Park Week.
- **Roads:**
 - *The road between the parks, the Generals Highway, is open!* However, it may be closed in case of significant snowfall. Expect a delay of up to 10 minutes at a traffic light along the way.
 - Plan carefully to minimize your delays and maximize your fun. If you plan to enter or exit Sequoia National Park this spring, you will find 20-minute to 2-hour delays along the Generals Highway between the Highway 198 entrance and giant sequoia trees. Vehicles longer than 22 feet (6.7 m) are **prohibited**. For vehicles towing trailers, the **combined length** must not exceed 22 feet. Longer vehicles should come through the Kings Canyon entrance on Highway 180. *This construction project is expected to continue until mid-August.*
 - Call for road conditions-559-565-3341 (press 1, 1, 1). Tire chains may be required at any time. For road construction schedules, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/seki/parknews/newsreleases.htm>.

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- **Safety:** Dress warmly and wear sturdy footwear if you plan to hike or walk in the park. Wear layers of clothing for maximum comfort. Consider bringing snowshoes to explore Sequoia National Park's Giant Forest or higher elevations in either park. Recent storms caused a significant amount of damage to trees at lower elevations in the parks. Be alert for damaged trees, and avoid overhead hazards.
- **Winter Sports:** Due to limited snowfall, conditions for winter sports vary greatly at this time and may include areas with bare ground. Conditions for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing may be possible in Sequoia National Park at the Wolverton trailhead, as well as at higher elevations (8,000 feet+) of either Sequoia or Kings Canyon national parks. However, as the snow continues to melt/compact, visitors may encounter icy conditions. Snow for sledding is very limited.
- **Trail Status Updates:**
 - The Marble Fork Trail in Sequoia National Park has reopened after recent storm damage.
 - The Middle Fork Trailhead Road in Sequoia National Park has reopened after storm damage.
- **Campground Information:**
 - Most of Potwisha Campground in Sequoia National Park has reopened after recent storms. Approximately 30 campsites are available for use with tents, RVs, or trailers. (*The rest of Potwisha Campground remains temporarily closed due to recent storm damage.*)
 - Lodgepole Campground has reopened for the season with a limited number of sites available adjacent to or in the parking lot. Tents, RVs, and trailers are welcome. Campfires are only allowed in established fire rings, *not in the parking lot.*
 - For more information about camping: <http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm>.
- **Visitor Centers:**
 - *Sequoia National Park:* The Foothills Visitor Center is open daily from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The Lodgepole Visitor Center is open daily from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., with extended hours from May 12 - 24 of 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The Giant Forest Museum is expected to reopen on Friday, May 11, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily. Visitor center hours will be extended in summer.
 - *Kings Canyon National Park:* Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center is open 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily.
- **Services:** The Lodgepole Market, Gift Shop, and Laundry will open for the season on April 6. Through April 27, hours of operation are from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily. After April 28, the hours of operation extend to 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily. The Lodgepole Snack Bar is expected to open on April 28.

Call 559-565-3341 or visit www.nps.gov/seki for more information before upcoming visits to the parks.

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